

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling access of a plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by a single access operation wherein each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases requires a separate driver to access the ~~data-source~~ database so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers;

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API; and

accessing an associated ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by said each driver in response to said merging driver access ~~though~~ through said API,

wherein said single access operation enabled access of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases; and

said single access operation is performed for each of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases to search for stored data related to said single access operation in each of said plurality of databases.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each ~~data-source~~ database to be included in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein one ~~data-source database~~ in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases is a merging data source.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
obtaining an ordered result in response to said
single access operation.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further
comprising:

accessing said merging driver through a user
interface API.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer program product
comprising a tangible computer readable medium having stored
therein computer program code for enabling access of a
plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by a single access
operation wherein each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality
of ~~data-sources~~ databases requires a separate driver to access
the ~~data-source~~ database so that there is a plurality of
separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for
each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein
said API is substantially identical for each of said
drivers in said plurality of separate drivers;

receiving said single access by a merging driver
wherein in response to said single access operation, said
merging driver accesses said plurality of separate drivers
through said API; and

accessing an associated ~~data-source~~ database in said
plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by said each driver in
response to said merging driver access ~~though~~ through said
API,

wherein said single access operation enabled access of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases; and

said single access operation is performed for each of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases to search for stored data related to said single access operation in each of said plurality of databases.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

receiving from a user a selection of each ~~data-source~~ database to be included in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein one ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases is a merging data source.

9. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

accessing said merging driver through a user interface API.

11. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases;

a driver for each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases thereby forming a plurality of drivers wherein each driver has a substantially identical driver application programming interface; and

a merging driver coupled to each driver in said plurality of drivers through said driver application programming interface wherein said merging driver distributes a single query to each driver in said plurality of drivers so that said single query is directed to each of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases to search for stored data related to said single query in each of said plurality of databases.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11 wherein one ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases is a merging data source.

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and having stored therein computer program instructions, wherein execution of computer program instructions by said processor comprises a method for enabling access of a plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by a single access operation wherein each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases requires a separate driver to access the ~~data-source~~ database so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers;

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API; and

accessing an associated ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by said each

driver in response to said merging driver access
~~though~~ through said API,

wherein said single access operation
enabled access of said plurality of ~~data sources~~
databases; and

said single access operation is performed
for each of said plurality of ~~data sources~~
databases to search for stored data related to
said single access operation in each of said
plurality of databases.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, said
method further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each ~~data source~~
database to be included in said plurality of ~~data sources~~
databases.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein
one ~~data source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data sources~~
databases is a merging data source.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13, said method
further comprising:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said
single access operation.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, said
method further comprising:

accessing said merging driver through a user
interface API.